

Message Text

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FEBRUARY 4, 1974

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: UVF CALLS FOR DESTRUCTION OF COUNCIL OF IRELAND,
CREATION OF "COUNCIL OF ULSTER".

SUMMARY: BELFAST SUNDAY NEWS FEBRUARY 3 PUBLISHED ARTICLE BY PROSCIBRED ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE OFFERING HAND OF CONCILIATION AND URGING PEACE TALKS. UVF SAID IT HAS BECOME DISILLUSIONED WITH UNIONIST HIERARCHY AND ALSO LOYALIST POLITICANS (EXCEPT DESMOND BOAL) WHO WERE SELLING OUT TO REPUBLICANISM WHILE UVF WERE WINNING MILITARY WAR AGAINST IRA. UVF HAS BECOME CONVINCED THAT SOLUTION TO TROUBLES MUST BE FOUNDED ON UNITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF ORDINARY ULSTER PEOPLE. BOTH PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC. COUNCIL OF IRELAND MUST BE DESTROYED, AND THEN COUNCIL OF ULSTER SHOULD BE CREATED TO DISCUSS SOLUTION TO ULSTER TROUBLES. UVF URGES ALL ULSTERMEN TO FORGIVE AND FORGET, AND JOIN IN CREATING NEW ERA OF PEACE, CONTENTMENT AND GOODWILL. COMMENT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL END SUMMARY.

1. BELFAST SUNDAY NEWS FEBRUARY 3 PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE SAID TO BE "PREPARED FOR THE ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS
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STAFF BY A SPECIAL STUDY GROUP COMPOSED OF OFFICERS, NCOS AND

VOLUNTEERS". ARTICLE DOES NOT CLAIM TO PROPOSE SOLUTION TO ULSTER'S PROBLEMS, ONLY TO REFLECT "THE VIEWS OF THE MEN OF THE UVF." AUTHORS REQUEST COMMENTS AND CRITICISM FROM ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY.

2. ARTICLE SAYS PRESENT TROUBLES HAVE BROUGHT MUCH POLITICAL AWARENESS TO "ORDINARY GRASS-ROOTS PROTESTANT PEOPLE" WHO HAD BEEN WILLING TO LET MIDDLE- AND UPPER-CLASS UNIONISTS THINK FOR THEM. THEN WHEN UNIONIST HIERARCHY CHANGED COURSE, PROTESTANTS FELT FRUSTRATED, INSECURE AND POWERLESS. UNIONIST INDOCTRINATION HAD TAUGHT THEM THEIR ENEMY WAS REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT AND CATHOLICS, SO UVF CONDUCTED MILITARY ACTIONS FOR FOUR YEARS AGAINST IRA -- BOMBING IRA MEETING PLACES AND SOURCES OF FINANCE, ENGAGING REPUBLICAN GUNMEN DURING SECTARIAN CONFRONTATIONS AND CARRYING OUT "SELECTED PROCUREMENT OPERATIONS FOR FUNDS AND WAR MATERIALS" BUT NOT, AUTHORS CLAIM, SECTARIAN OR POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS.

3. UVF HAD CONCENTRATED ON MILITARY AFFAIRS, LEAVING POLITICS TO POLITICIANS, BUT AS TIME WENT ON UVF MEN SAW THAT LOYALIST POLITICIANS WERE "MORE CONCERNED WITH INTERNAL BICKERING AND LEADERSHIP STRUGGLES THAN FIGHTING FOR THE DEFENCE AND PRESERVATION OF THEIR PROTESTANT LIBERTIES AND TRADITIONAL WAY OF LIFE." IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 1973 PROVINCE WAS BEING SOLD OUT, AND UVF BEGAN TO ASK ITSELF WHY FIGHT WHEN LOYALIST POLITICAL LEADERS COULDN'T WORK OUT POLITICAL SOLUTION. SO UVF DECLARED CEASE-FIRE IN NOVEMBER AND INDEFINITELY EXTENDED IT IN JANUARY THOUGH NEITHER POLITICIANS NOR SECURITY FORCES ACKNOWLEDGED CEASE-FIRE.

4. UVF BRIGADE STAFF THEN MET WITH EVERY SHADE OF OPINION THAT WOULD TALK TO THEM - LOYALIST COALITION, NORTHERN IRELAND LABOUR PARTY, AND OTHERS, AND SET UP VARIOUS STUDY GROUPS IN SEARCH OF ANSWER TO PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS. UVF FOUND THAT "NOT ONE LOYALIST PARTY OR INDIVIDUAL POLITICIAN HAD ANY SOUND CONSTRUCTIVE POLICY TO PUT FORWARD (AND) THAT THE MUCH PUBLICISED UNITY AMONGST THE LOYALIST POLITICIANS WAS ONE GREAT BIG SHAM," EX-SHANKILL M.P. DESMOND BOAL WAS THE ONLY ONE PREPARED TO SPEND ANY TIME WITH THEM AND WITH A POLICY TO OFFER, AND UVF "GAINED A GREAT DEAL OF POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE FROM THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM. "AS A RESULT OF THIS INCURSION INTO POLITICS, UVF " HAS A NEW OUTLOOK ON LIFE. THEY SEE ULSTER, NOT SIMPLY THROUGH THE EYES OF SECTARIAN BIGOTS AND GUNMEN, BUT THROUGH THE EYES OF ENLIGHTENED ULSTERMEN. ULSTERMEN WHO NOW SEE THAT LIFE IN ULSTER CAN ONLY BE ENJOYED TO THE FULL BY THE CREATION OF A NEW SOCIETY BASED UPON THE UNITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE ORDINARY RANK AND FILE ULSTER PEOPLE - PROTESTANT AND ROMAN CATHOLIC ALIKE."

5. HOW THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED IS A MATTER FOR DISCUSSION AND BARGAINING AMONG PEOPLES OF ULSTER "NOT JUST THE UPPER-MIDDLE CLASS WHO HAVE EXPLOITED THE RELIGIOUS FEARS OF BOTH SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY FOR 50 YEARS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL POWER AND MATERIAL WEALTH, BUT THE ORDINARY RANK AND FILE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUFFERED SO MUCH AND HAVE SO MUCH TO OFFER IN A PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS LAND." FIRST ALL, PEOPLE OF ULSTER MUST REALIZE THEY WILL HAVE TO LIVE TOGETHER AND SINK DIFFERENCES TO DECIDE ON COMMON POLICY. SECOND, "PROPOSED 32-COUNTY PROVISIONAL PARLIAMENT FOR IRELAND ESTABLISHED AT SUNNINGDALE MUST BE COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY DESTROYED" BECAUSE PEOPLE WILL NOT AGREE TO BE RULED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS COMPOSED OF SEVEN RIGHT-WING CONSERVATIVE ROMAN CATHOLICS AND SEVEN NI EXECUTIVE MEMBERS WHO HAVE USED FEARS OF CO-RELIGIONISTS AS STEPPING-STONE TO POWER. THIRD, WHEN PROVISIONAL PARLIAMENT IS DESTROYED, BRITISH GOVERNMENT MUST SIT ROUND CONFERENCE TABLE WITH RANK AND FILE ULSTER PEOPLE TO HAMMER OUT NEW CONSTITUTION, AFTER WHICH "BRITAIN AND EIRE MUST BE TOLD IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THAT IN FUTURE THE PEOPLE OF ULSTER WILL PLOT THEIR OWN DESTINY AND GOVERN THEIR OWN INTERNAL AFFAIRS."

6. UVF DISAGREES THAT OPPONENTS OF SUNNINGDALE MUST PRODUCE ALTERNATIVE TO COUNCIL OF IRELAND BEFORE SEEKING ITS DESTRUCTION. NO ONE SECTION OF COMMUNITY COULD PRODUCE WIDELY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS: THIS SHOULD BE DONE BY ALL SECTIONS COMING TOGETHER. "WHILE THE UVF FAVORS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT (UNITED) ULSTER OR EVEN A FEDERAL IRELAND, IT IS PLEDGED TO ACCEPT THE MAJORITY DECISION OF THE ULSTER PEOPLE AS TO THE FINAL SOLUTION. THE MEN OF THE UVF WILL PLAY THEIR PART IN DESTROYING THE 32-COUNTY PARLIAMENT PROPOSED AT SUNNINGDALE AND TRUST THAT THE PEOPLE OF ULSTER WILL UNITE IN ITS DESTRUCTION TO PLAN THEIR FINAL DESTINY."

7. UVF PROPOSES CREATION OF
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